

CREATING A MODERN MYTH

A myth is an ancient story that attempts to explain forces of nature, customs, or beliefs by telling about how gods or goddesses intervene in the lives of mortals. Myths usually focus on a hero who must accomplish a difficult task (defeat an enemy or find a valuable item). Throughout the story, the hero is either helped or hindered by gods and goddesses or other supernatural forces.

Your assignment is to write a modern myth. Create a fictional story with yourself as the main character, or the hero. Show how modern gods and goddesses either interfere with or aide you in accomplishing some heroic task.

BRAINSTORMING

- Imagine a heroic task for you to accomplish or an enemy for you to defeat in this myth (remember to keep this set in the modern world).
- Create several modern gods and goddesses that represent modern ideas or phenomena.
- Decide how these modern gods or goddesses will help you in your quest, or how they will get in your way.

WRITING

Beginning

- Tell the story from a third-person point of view. (In other words, refer to your character as “he” or “she” instead of “I.”)
- Introduce the main character (you) and the setting.
- Introduce the task you must accomplish or the enemy you must defeat.

Middle

- Write the events of the story in chronological order.
- Show you (as the hero) trying to accomplish the final goal.
- Show how modern gods and goddesses help you or fight against you on your quest.
- Use dialogue to further the story and develop character traits.

Ending

- Show how you, as the hero, ultimately achieve (or fail to achieve) the goal.
- Reflect on the influence of the gods on the way your hero story turns out.

REVISING AND EDITING

- Add descriptive details and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the hero’s experiences.
- Make sure the actions of the gods and goddesses in your story help explain some modern phenomenon (like why gas prices constantly go up and down or why computers always seem to magically quit working after you’ve owned them for a couple of years.)
- Check to see that your dialogue is punctuated correctly.

LENGTH

- Your finished story should be between two and five pages long.

STORY BRAINSTORM

What is the **setting** where this modern myth will take place? _____

Imagine a **heroic task** for the hero (you) to accomplish—this could be a **quest** to fulfill or an **enemy** to defeat:

What **obstacles** will stand in the hero's way during the story?

Think about how **modern mythical gods and goddesses** will take part in this story.

God or Goddess #1

Name: _____ What he or she represents: _____

How will this god help or interfere with the hero's journey?

God or Goddess #2

Name: _____ What he or she represents: _____

How will this god help or interfere with the hero's journey?

God or Goddess #3

Name: _____ What he or she represents: _____

How will this god help or interfere with the hero's journey?
